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5th Edition

SWR

Magazine 1:1

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FROM THE WORKSHOP

BUILDING YOUR
OWN END-FED HALF
WAVE (EFHW)
ANTENNA

LIGHTNING PROTECTION

SHOULD YOU
INSTALL
PROTECTION IF
YOU ARE NOT
SURE?

RF Coils

THE UNSUNG HERO OF HF
STATIONS

ICOM ID- 5200

THE REVOLUTION IN
AMATEUR RADIO HAS
ARRIVED!!

BETWEEN ANTENNAS AND LAUGHTER

THE ESSENCE OF AMATEUR
RADIO

Introduction

On the Cover

The image gracing our cover transports us straight to the 2025 Tokyo Ham Fair, the largest amateur radio gathering in Asia and one of the most influential in the world. It shows an eager crowd gathered in front of the presentation of the Icom IC-7300 MK2, the successor to the already legendary IC-7300, which, since its release, has changed the way many of us understand modern amateur radio.

This moment was not just the unveiling of a new piece of equipment: it was a celebration of innovation, passion, and the camaraderie that defines our global community. The Tokyo Ham Fair is far more than a technology expo; it is a place where cultures, generations, and dreams converge around radio.



Photo by: Icom Inc.

Tokyo 2025: Where the Passion for Radio Connects the World

There, every booth, every demonstration, and every greeting among colleagues becomes a living testament to the power of this hobby to connect the world through the airwaves.

The anticipation for the IC-7300 MK2 was one of the event's highlights. With notable improvements such as its network interface and an optimized receiver, this transceiver promises to set the direction for the coming years. Yet beyond the shine of technology, what truly stood out was the atmosphere: thousands of voices sharing experiences, learning from one another, and reminding us that, in an increasingly digital world, radio remains a unique and irreplaceable human bridge.

The 2025 Ham Fair not only showcased new equipment but also reaffirmed the relevance, innovation, and spirit of solidarity within the amateur radio community. From Japan to the rest of the world, the message was clear: our passion knows no borders, and events like this are the perfect reminder that when amateur radio operators come together, the planet feels a little smaller and much more connected.

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Amateur Radio Is the Invisible Voice That Connects the World Through Friendship and Knowledge

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Foto deswling.com

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W

ith immense joy, we celebrate the 5th edition of SWR, a magazine born from the heart of amateur radio and now reaching thousands of people across different corners of the world. Every page reflects the passion, dedication, and community spirit that define amateur radio operators—men and women who, with an antenna and a microphone, can break down borders and build bridges of friendship. The positive feedback we've received fills us with gratitude and motivates us to keep growing. Each edition brings not only more subscribers but also new contributors who enrich this collective project with their voices and experience. SWR is not simply

a magazine, it is a living space where ideas, learning, and the very essence of amateur radio converge: sharing without limits.

We want to continue this journey together. We invite all who love this exciting world to join us, whether as contributors, subscribers, or simply enthusiasts who enjoy learning and contributing. Because in amateur radio, as in life, every voice counts and every signal has a purpose. Let's keep building community, edition after edition, taking the spirit of amateur radio ever farther.

SWR Editorial Team

"United by the Passion for Amateur Radio,
Building Bridges That Transcend Borders."

Subscribe Completely
Free:

<https://forms.gle/DDhwNTQpFdPdWBZ87>



Photo by: www.westhawaii.com





WORLD NEWS

DXLOOK INTRODUCES NEW REAL-TIME VHF PROPAGATION MAP

DXLook recently launched vhf.dxlook.com, a platform designed to display VHF signal propagation in real time.

- Visualization of APRS-IS data from thousands of reporting stations worldwide.
- Dynamic maps with reception lobes or contours grouped by distance: 50 km, 150 km, 250 km, 500 km, and 750 km.
- Interactive tools to explore coverage by time.
- Fast and lightweight interface for both desktop and mobile devices.

This tool is especially useful for those working with FM repeaters, APRS, portable operations, and contests, as it helps identify when and where propagation extends beyond the usual line of sight. It also complements other DXLook tools that monitor HF propagation via WSPR, PSK Reporter, DX Cluster, RBN, and POTA.

ARDC OPENS 2026 VOLUNTEER CALL

Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) has announced the opening of its 2026 volunteer call. Interested individuals can apply for various committees and new roles related to grants, technical aspects, and the management of the 44Net portal. The application period will be open from September 16 to October 31, 2025, with roles starting in January 2026.

More information at: www.ardc.net



SPECIAL EVENT FOR FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Gainesville, FL — From October 5 to 11, 2025, a special amateur radio event will be held in observance of Fire Prevention Week, with this year's focus on lithium-ion battery safety.

Event details: Stations such as N4F (the event lead in Florida), VA3FIRE in Ontario, and nominated stations N1F through N9F, among others, will be on the air. They will operate on various HF bands using SSB and some digital modes like FT8. Each contact (QSO) will include a safety tip related to this year's theme: preventing fires caused by lithium batteries. Participants can obtain a downloadable certificate via hamfire.com, validating their participation.

This event is an excellent opportunity to raise awareness about safe practices while allowing the amateur radio community to actively participate and enhance their operating skills.



Photo by :www.n1fd.org

BETWEEN ANTENNAS AND LAUGHTER: THE ESSENCE OF AMATEUR RADIO

By: Jose M. Candelaria NP4ET

The Soul of Amateur Radio: Installing a Tower with Friends

In the world of amateur radio, there are moments that go beyond technical skills and become shared experiences that strengthen bonds of friendship and community. One such moment is installing a tower and its antenna—a process that, while technical, is filled with camaraderie, learning, and a deep sense of belonging.

Preparation: A Shared Project

The idea of installing a new tower begins as a dream—a vision to improve communication quality and extend signal reach. But it quickly becomes a collective project that requires planning, effort, and, above all, collaboration. Choosing the location, the type of tower, the necessary tools, and the logistics for D-Day are all topics discussed and decided together, ensuring that every detail is covered.



Photo by: www.sparc-club.org

Preparation: A Shared Project

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Planning: A Shared Endeavor

The idea of installing a new tower starts as a dream—a vision to improve communication quality and expand signal reach. It soon evolves into a collective project requiring careful planning, effort, and, above all, collaboration. Decisions about the location, tower type, necessary tools, and logistics for D-Day are all made together, ensuring every detail is accounted for.



Photo by: melbournemakerspace.org

Experienced amateur radio operators teach younger enthusiasts not only the installation techniques but also the values that underpin this hobby: patience, perseverance, and respect for others.

Conclusion: Radio as a Connector of Lives

At the end of the day, what remains are not just the connections made through the antennas, but the human connections that have been formed. Installing a tower and antenna is, in essence, a celebration of radio, friendship, and the magic of communicating without borders. It is a reminder that, in an increasingly digital and distant world, radio continues to be a bridge that connects hearts and minds.



Photo by: OM0ET



BUILDING YOUR OWN END-FED HALF WAVE (EFHW) ANTENNA

By: Isidro De Jesus WP4NXI

Introduction

In the world of amateur radio, the antenna is just as important as the transceiver. For those seeking ease of installation and operation on HF, the End-Fed Half Wave (EFHW) is an ideal option: a single-wire, end-fed design that is compact and efficient, capable of covering multiple bands without complications. This project is perfect for both beginners and experienced amateur radio operators who want to experiment with simple yet effective antennas.

Photo by: [g4aqb.wordpress.com](https://www.g4aqb.wordpress.com)



Required Materials

- 10–15 meters of enameled copper wire or copper cable (depending on the band)
- Toroidal core (type FT-140-43 or FT-240-43)
- AWG 18–22 enameled wire for winding the unun
- SO-239 or PL-259 connector
- RG-58 or RG-8X coaxial cable
- Plastic box to protect the unun
- Electrical tape or heat-shrink tubing
-



Step 1: Building the 1:49 Unun

1. Place the toroidal core on a stable surface.
2. Wind 5–6 turns of enameled wire on one side of the toroid (coaxial side).
3. On the other side, wind 20–25 turns of the antenna wire in parallel (antenna side).
4. Connect the coaxial cable to the side with fewer turns and the antenna wire to the side with more turns.
5. Secure everything with electrical tape and place it inside a plastic box to protect it from the elements.



Step 2: Preparing the Antenna Wire

- Cut a copper wire approximately 10–12 meters long for use on the 20 m and 40 m HF bands.
- Strip the ends and, if necessary, tin the wires to facilitate connection to the unun and the anchor support.

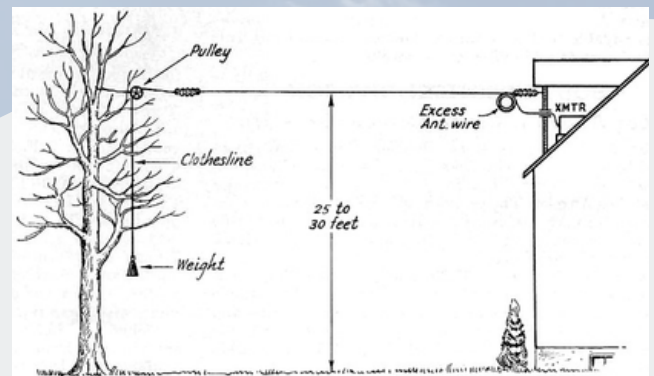
Step 3: Installing the Antenna

- Mount the antenna by stretching the wire in a straight line or in an “L” shape between two high points (trees, mast).
- Place the unun near the feed end, where you will connect the coaxial cable to the transceiver.
- Ensure the antenna is clear of large metallic objects that could interfere with radiation.



Step 4: Tuning and Verification

- Use an SWR (Standing Wave Ratio) meter to measure the match.
- The antenna should show an SWR close to 1:1 on its main band.
- If the SWR is high, adjust the height or angle of the wire until the ratio improves.



Why This Antenna Is Ideal

- Easy to Build: Requires few materials and basic tools.
- Efficient: Covers multiple HF bands with a single wire and unun.
- Educational: Teaches concepts of impedance, matching, and RF radiation.
- Portable: Perfect for QRP, portable operations, or home stations with limited space.

Conclusion

The EFHW with a 1:49 unun is an accessible, practical, and highly rewarding project for any amateur radio operator. Beyond the construction, it allows you to understand the basic principles of antennas and enjoy radio with better performance and less complexity. A small antenna that opens up great possibilities on HF!

DXpeditions

Exploring New Horizons on Every DXpedition Reminds Us That Radio Not Only Transmits Signals, but Also Stories, Friendship, and the Passion for Discovering the World.



01

Koror is one of the few less-touristy islands in the world, yet as exotic as other dream destinations on the planet. It is the main commercial center of the Republic of Palau and consists of several islands, with Koror Island being the most prominent. With only 14,000 inhabitants (as of 2004), its economy is primarily based on tourism.

Those wishing to enjoy quality time with their family in the heart of nature and experience the true meaning of peace should consider this island as their next travel destination. For those who have already started planning their trip to this exotic island, here is a list of things you definitely should do once you are there.

01.

T88PB Koror, Palau Island

NT88PB will be active again from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, Palau, from October 3 to 5, 2025.

- It will operate on HF bands.
- Latest DX announcements for T88PB.
- QSL via JA0JHQ direct.

Direct QSL information:

Nobuaki Hosokawa

1458-25

Okagami,

Asao-ku,

Kawasaki,

Kanagawa,

215-0027,

Japan





02

02.

E51MWA Manihiki Atoll

The E51MWA team will be active from Manihiki Atoll, IOTA OC-014, from October 9 to 20, 2025.

Team: N7QT, WA7CPA, N7JP, KC7EFP, N9ADG, KN2P

Latest DX updates for E51MWA.

Manihiki Atoll is part of the Cook Islands in the Pacific Ocean and is a completely flat coral reef with a total area of about 5 square kilometers. Despite its small size, Manihiki is world-famous for its unique natural black pearl farm. Besides Manihiki Atoll, the only other islands supplying the global market with this valuable gem are in French Polynesia.

Like most islands in Oceania, Manihiki has a little-studied history. It is known that the first settlers arrived here in the early 14th century, as forced migrants from neighboring islands. Permanent settlements on Manihiki were not established until the 18th century under the influence of European missionaries, during which two small villages were founded.

03

The capital of Angola is Luanda. It is one of the largest cities in the country, founded in 1575. According to recent data, the city's population is around 4.5 million inhabitants. By comparison, the population of all other cities barely exceeds 500,000. Luanda is popular with tourists because, in addition to its exceptional natural beauty, it boasts numerous architectural treasures created by the local people over the centuries.

03.

D2A Angola

The D2A team will be active from Angola from October 17 to 28, 2025, commemorating the 50th anniversary of Angola's Independence.

Team: EC7R, CTIBOL, D2ACE, ECIT, EA1ACP, D2XX, CT2GFW, CT7APE, CT1FFU, EA5EL

Latest DX announcements for D2A.



New dual band

ICOM ID-5200



By: SWR Editorial Team

Icom ID-5200: The Revolution in Amateur Radio Has Arrived!

The ID-5200 Doesn't Just Connect Radios, It Connects You to the Future

Can you imagine a transceiver that lets you do much more than just talk on VHF or UHF? Icom has made it a reality with the ID-5200, showcased at the 2025 Tokyo Ham Fair, and I assure you this device will change the way you see amateur radio.

In a world where amateur radio is evolving rapidly, Icom surprises us once again with the launch of the ID-5200, unveiled at the 2025 Tokyo Ham Fair. This new transceiver is not merely an upgrade of previous models but a true gateway to the future of amateur communication, combining power, connectivity, and ease of use in a single device that promises to transform the experience of amateur radio operators worldwide.

First, let's talk about its color touchscreen. Yes, you no longer have to navigate confusing menus with tiny buttons. Everything is at your fingertips, and the interface is so intuitive that it feels like using your favorite tablet. The best part? You can see and control everything at a glance.

Now, imagine being able to receive two signals at the same time, whether FM-FM, FM-DV, or DV-DV. This means you won't miss any important communications, and your operations become much more efficient. For those who enjoy monitoring multiple channels, this is a game-changer.

And what about Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity? You can integrate your radio with your phone or tablet, access networks, and even perform configurations and updates effortlessly. This isn't just convenience—it's expanding what your station can do.

The ID-5200 also features an internal gateway function, allowing you to use it as a terminal or access point. This opens up a world of possibilities: local amateur radio networks, remote communication, and more. It's like having a mini operations center in the palm of your hand.



For those who love exploring, aircraft band reception is an amazing bonus. You won't just hear local repeaters—you can now follow aeronautical communications and other services. It's a small glimpse into the world beyond your neighborhood.

And yes, all of this comes with 50W of output power, support for 50Ω antennas or long-wire antennas, and a design suited for both mobile and stationary operations. In short: flexibility and power combined.

The exact price and release date are still unknown, but the ID-5200 is already generating excitement among amateur radio operators. And if you ask me, it's no wonder: Icom has achieved a perfect balance of innovation, ease of use, and performance.

Amateur radio has always been a bridge between tradition and innovation. With the ID-5200, Icom reminds us that the future isn't coming—it's already here, in our hands. The real revolution isn't just in the technology, but in how amateur radio operators use it to connect, learn, and share with the world.

Seeds of Voice, Echoes of the Future

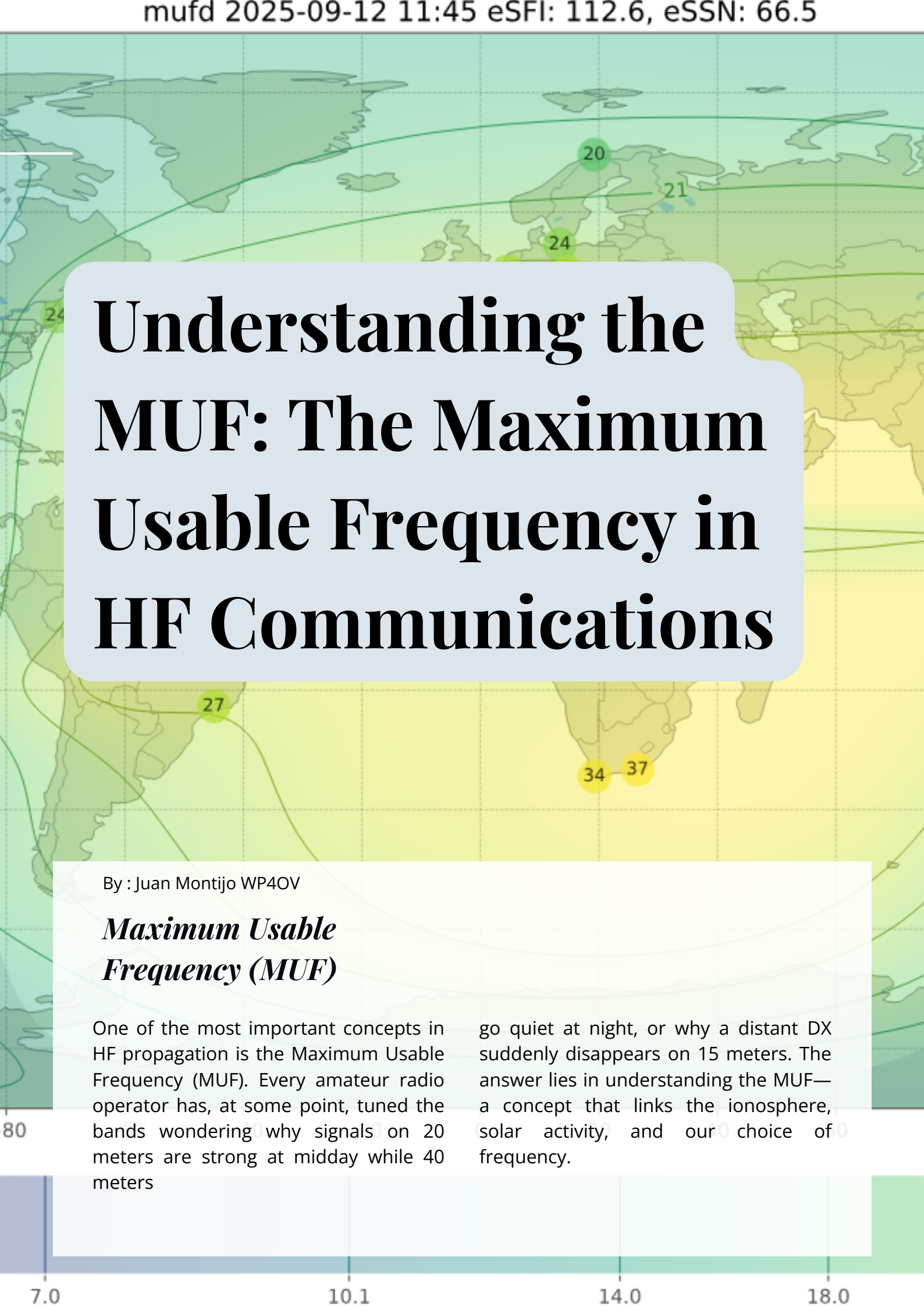
In their hands, a microphone; in their heart, a universe of dreams. Their voice travels beyond the horizon, reminding us that amateur radio is not just waves and frequencies, but an eternal bridge where childhood becomes hope and the present transforms into the future.



Foto de: Icom America



POTO BY: WWW.EA1URL.ES



Understanding the MUF: The Maximum Usable Frequency in HF Communications

By : Juan Montijo WP4OV

Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF)

One of the most important concepts in HF propagation is the Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF). Every amateur radio operator has, at some point, tuned the bands wondering why signals on 20 meters are strong at midday while 40 meters

go quiet at night, or why a distant DX suddenly disappears on 15 meters. The answer lies in understanding the MUF—a concept that links the ionosphere, solar activity, and our choice of frequency.

What Is the MUF?

The Maximum Usable Frequency is the highest frequency at which a radio wave can be transmitted between two points via ionospheric refraction and still be successfully received. In simple terms, it tells us the “upper limit” of HF frequencies that the ionosphere will support over a given path. If we try to use a frequency higher than the MUF, the signal will pass through the ionosphere into space instead of bending back to Earth. Staying below it (but not too low) ensures the signals are refracted and reliably returned.

How Does It Work?

The ionosphere—layers of charged particles created by solar radiation—acts like a mirror for HF signals. Its behavior is not constant but varies



according to:

- Season: Summer and winter present differences in the ionosphere that affect which frequencies are open.
 - Solar activity: Sunspots, solar flares, and solar flux influence ionization, sometimes dramatically raising the MUF—or closing bands during geomagnetic storms.
 - Path distance and angle: The MUF depends on the length of the path and the angle at which the wave strikes the ionosphere. For long DX paths, the MUF can be significantly higher than for short hops.
- Simple rule: More sun and more ionization = higher MUF. Less sun = lower MUF.
- Why Is It Important for Amateur Radio Operators?**
- For amateur radio operators, knowing the MUF means understanding which bands are open and when. A DXer seeking distant stations will monitor the MUF to decide whether to call on 20 meters or move up to 15 or 10 meters to take advantage of better propagation.
- Time of day: During the day, solar radiation strengthens the ionosphere, raising the MUF and making higher bands like 15, 12, or 10 meters usable. At night, the ionosphere weakens, lowering the MUF and favoring lower bands such as 80 and 40 meters.

TRIVIA DX

CHALLENGE YOURSELF AND DISCOVER HOW MUCH YOU KNOW ABOUT THE EXCITING WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO!

How much do you know about amateur radio, the spectrum, and ham culture? Test your knowledge with these five questions. Answers are at the end of the page (no peeking!).

1. What does MUF stand for in ionospheric propagation?
 - a) Maximum Use of Frequency
 - b) Maximum Usable Frequency
 - c) Universal Frequency Mode
2. On which HF band is the 14.074 MHz frequency, widely used for PSK31 and FT8?
 - a) 20 meters
 - b) 40 meters
 - c) 15 meters
3. Which international organization assigns amateur radio call sign prefixes?
 - a) ITU
 - b) ARRL
 - c) FCC
4. Which invention was popularized by Guglielmo Marconi?
 - a) Wireless telegraphy
 - b) FM radio
 - c) Television
1. Which solar phenomenon directly affects HF propagation?
 - a) Sunspots
 - b) Solar wind
 - c) Auroras

1. b) Maximum Usable Frequency
2. a) 20 meters
3. a) ITU
4. a) Wireless Telegraphy
5. a) Sunspots

YOU CAN LIVE WITHOUT A WILL

By: Jack N. Alpern, K8HGX
Ray Fallen, ND8L

... but don't get sick or die without one.

"If you fail to prepare, you are preparing to fail."
- Benjamin Franklin

"You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."
- Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Death is not the end. What remains is the litigation over the estate."
- Ambrose Bierce

The Problem

In 2023, the most recent year for which we have statistics, over three million Americans passed away. That same year, it was estimated that around nine million people of all ages were living with severe disabilities requiring personal assistance to carry out daily activities. While the figures may vary, experts agree that approximately three out of four Americans do not have a will or any estate plan. Statistics for having a written plan in case of disability are even more concerning.

Why?

Procrastination, ignorance, or the refusal to admit "this could happen to me" are the main reasons.



Photo by: www.reddit.com





Photo by: James Godfrey

The conclusion is that you and your family cannot afford to let this happen. Your family shouldn't pay the price for your lack of foresight and action.

Jack has practiced estate planning law for 52 years, has planned the estates of more than 3,000 people (including his co-author), and has worked with hundreds of families when disabilities or premature deaths occurred. He has seen firsthand the difficulties families face when there is no prior planning.

What if you don't have a plan?

When a person becomes incapacitated due to an accident or illness and cannot care for themselves, most families descend into chaos. Who is in charge? Who will pay the bills? Should the amateur radio equipment be sold, and for how much? When you pass through the Gates of Heaven, the same problems arise—but become even more complex. Without a valid will, a family member or the family attorney must appear before the local probate court and be appointed personal representative, also known as executor (or, if there is no will, administrator).

The probate process often involves unnecessary delays, significant expenses, and public disclosure of the deceased's assets. In the case of amateur radio operators, the situation is worsened because the sale of equipment that could generate a significant amount of money to help the family with final expenses or replacement income is often left in the hands of people with little or no understanding of its true value. This problem can be avoided with proper planning.

The Solution

Your wishes must be clearly documented in writing to avoid uncertainty. These documents should be prepared by an estate planning attorney with experience in the field who understands your intentions.

Important Documents to Include in Your Estate Plan

[NOTE: THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF DOCUMENTS REQUIRED ALWAYS DEPENDS ON THE LAWS OF YOUR STATE. A SPECIALIZED ATTORNEY CAN ADVISE YOU ON HOW THOSE LAWS AFFECT YOUR CASE. THIS SHOULD NEVER BE A "DO-IT-YOURSELF" PROJECT!]

1. Will – Names the person in charge of your estate when you die and determines who receives your assets. If you also have a trust (see below), the will transfers ("funds") your assets into that trust. Assets under a will must go through probate. Your will should include instructions for the final disposition of your radio equipment and other property. If you die without a will (intestate), there is a "Plan B": your state's intestacy laws determine who gets what and in what amount. These laws are rigid, and heirs are often dissatisfied with the results.
2. Trust – Not mandatory, but created during your lifetime to receive assets you transfer to it. Generally avoids probate and can specify how and when your heirs receive assets. A trustee is appointed to carry out your instructions.
3. Financial Power of Attorney – While alive, designates the person(s) who will manage your financial affairs if you become incapacitated. Can be general or specific to different assets (banks, investments, real estate, radio equipment, etc.). This power expires upon death. Note: an attorney-in-fact cannot create or modify a will.
4. Healthcare Power of Attorney – Designates who will make healthcare decisions for you if you cannot. May include clauses regarding the withdrawal of life support in specific cases.
5. Living Will – Directly states your wishes regarding the withdrawal of life support, relieving your healthcare agent of that burden.
6. Detailed Inventory of Your Radio Equipment and Other Valuable Assets – Include serial numbers, purchase dates, and estimated value. Should be updated periodically. It is also useful to leave recommendations for who should sell or remove items.
7. Radio Equipment Insurance Policy – Can provide a value basis for the executor of your estate. Some amateur radio operators include this coverage in their homeowner's insurance.

1. List of Advisor Contacts – Attorney, accountant, financial advisors, insurance agent, funeral home, and someone knowledgeable about handling your radio equipment.
2. Location of Bank Accounts and Investments – Vital information for meeting financial obligations.
3. Military Discharge Papers – To claim veteran benefits, if applicable.
4. Birth Certificate and Social Security Card – May be required to prove citizenship.
5. Divorce or Dissolution Decrees – Prevent improper claims by former spouses on your estate.

Special Considerations for Amateur Radio Operators

1. In your will or trust, specify who should assist your family in disposing of your radio equipment. Decide whether it will be sold as a package (faster but less profitable) or piece by piece.
2. Leave instructions for the removal of towers and antennas, warning that damage to the home should be minimized. Your estate is liable for damages or injuries during this process. The safest option is to hire a professional service with liability insurance and workers' compensation coverage.
3. Provide instructions for who and how to remove mobile equipment, taking care not to damage your vehicles.

Conclusion

In estate planning, the worst thing you can do is what most people do: absolutely nothing. Procrastination is your enemy. The more detailed your instructions, the better. Vague or confusing language creates uncertainty, and uncertainty leads to court involvement, with more costs and delays. Make sure to store your documents in a place protected against fire, floods, and theft. A bank safe deposit box is the best option, but someone you trust should have access. Remember: most home safes are not fireproof, only fire-resistant.

If your documents cannot be found when needed, a court will assume you had no plan, and intestacy laws will determine the fate of your estate. This could benefit someone you intended to exclude, like that "undesirable" brother-in-law.

The enemy is procrastination. DO IT NOW!

Yaesu FT-757GX

The Nostalgia Nook

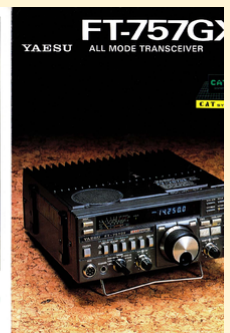
In the history of amateur radio, there are radios that, beyond their technical specifications, left an indelible mark on those who used them. One of these classics is the Yaesu FT-757GX, a transceiver that defined an era in the 1980s and still evokes memories and smiles among veteran hams today.

The FT-757GX appeared during a time of technological transition: the end of the era of large, heavy analog equipment and the beginning of more compact, digital, and



portable transceivers. With 100 W of output power, full HF coverage (160 to 10 meters), and modes including AM, SSB, and CW, this radio offered top-notch performance in a surprisingly small package for its time. Many remember it as the ideal “workhorse” for those seeking a reliable, easy-to-operate rig with the robustness needed to accompany hams both at their base station and in mobile or field operations. Its compact design and user-friendliness made it especially popular among newcomers to the HF world. The Yaesu FT-757GX also stood out for its reception quality and oscillator stability—key factors in an era when interference and weak signals were constant challenges. It didn’t have all the features we take for granted in modern rigs, but it delivered what mattered most: reliability, durability, and clear audio that many still remember fondly.

Some may even still have it powered on in their shack, and when they hear its warm audio, they feel that special spark only a classic can evoke.



By: SWR Editorial Team

The Nostalgia Nook

Lightning Protection for the Amateur Radio Station

By: Serafín Martínez KP4FIE



Photo by: sz1a.org

Lightning is one of nature's most powerful and unpredictable forces, and for ham radio operators, it is also one of the most feared. A direct strike can destroy equipment worth thousands of dollars, ruin antennas, damage property, and even pose a serious risk to life. That's why lightning protection in a ham radio station should never be an afterthought—it's an essential part of planning. But what happens when protection systems are improperly installed? Can they make things worse? Let's take a closer look.

The Case for Lightning Protection

For any station with outdoor antennas—especially tall verticals, towers, or wire arrays—the risk of a lightning strike is real. Even if your antenna never takes a direct hit, a nearby strike can induce damaging currents through coax, rotor cables, or power lines. That's why most experts—and organizations like the NFPA and ARRL—strongly recommend a proper grounding and surge protection system.

The best transmission starts with proper protection.

Photo by: www.n1fd.org



A well-designed system usually includes:

- Ground electrodes (rods or ground rings)
- Surge suppressors at all cable entry points
- A single grounding point where all ground connections meet
- Proper cable routing, avoiding sharp bends and minimizing entry into the radio room

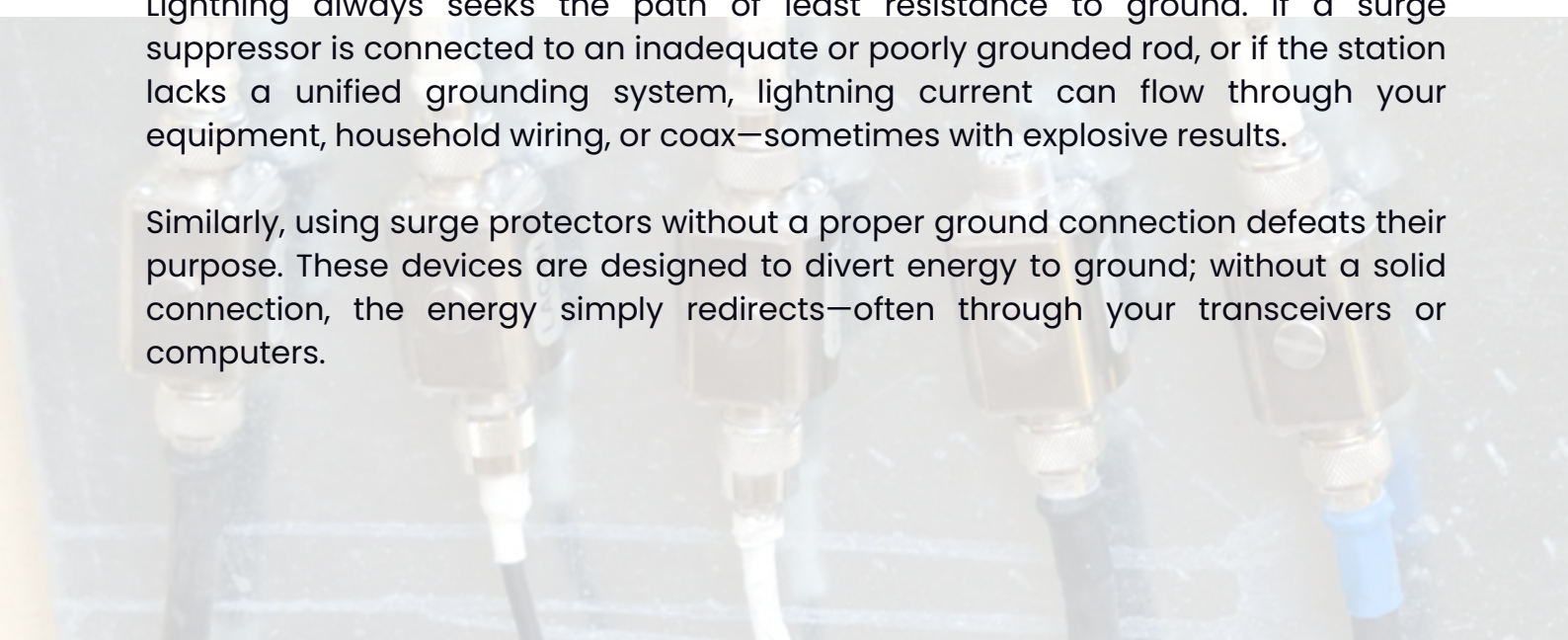
When installed correctly, these measures create a low-impedance path to ground for lightning energy, preventing it from passing through your equipment and protecting your ham radio station.

The Case Against Improper Protection

Ironically, one of the most dangerous things a ham radio operator can do is install partial or poorly designed lightning protection. Incomplete, improperly connected, or poorly grounded systems can actually increase the risk of damage. Why?

Lightning always seeks the path of least resistance to ground. If a surge suppressor is connected to an inadequate or poorly grounded rod, or if the station lacks a unified grounding system, lightning current can flow through your equipment, household wiring, or coax—sometimes with explosive results.

Similarly, using surge protectors without a proper ground connection defeats their purpose. These devices are designed to divert energy to ground; without a solid connection, the energy simply redirects—often through your transceivers or computers.



Preventing damage costs far less than replacing your equipment.

Photo by: hamradioacademy.com



Should You Install Protection If You're Not Sure?

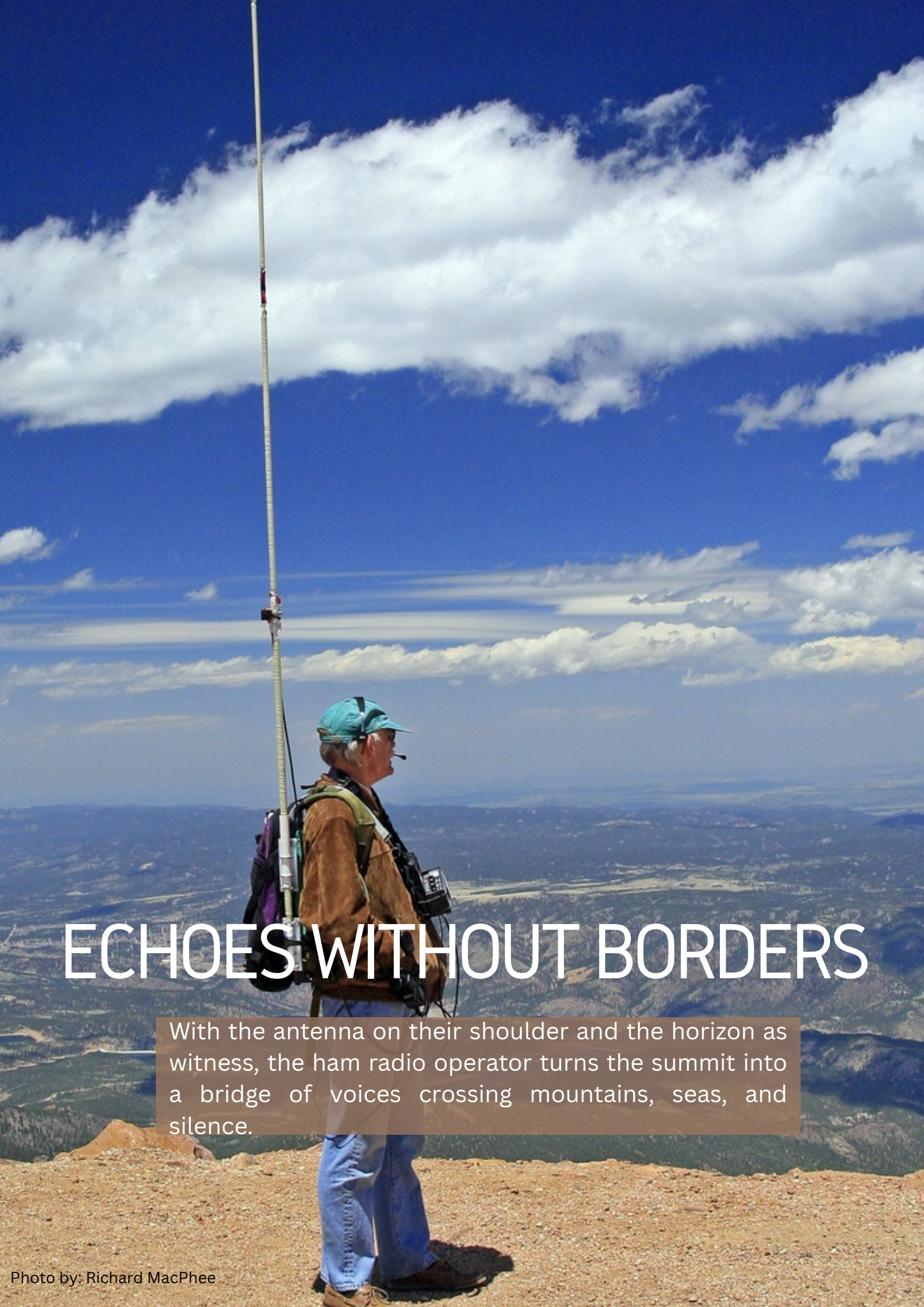
That's the big question. The short answer is no—but don't stop there. Half-measures can be worse than having no protection at all. If you're unsure how to install a proper system, it's better to wait and learn to do it correctly. That means understanding:

- The physics of grounding and why low impedance is more important than simply "driving a rod."
- Bonding techniques to equalize electrical potential across the system.
- Antenna placement and how to safely route cables.

There are numerous useful resources, such as the ARRL book *Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur*, as well as support from local emergency communications (EMCOMM) groups or electricians experienced in ham radio installations.

Final Thoughts

Lightning protection is not optional—it's a critical part of any serious ham radio station. But like a parachute, it only works if deployed correctly. If you're unsure about your system, take the time to study, seek help, and do it right. Your equipment, your home, and your safety are worth it. After all, we want our radios to generate conversations, not electrical fires. Have you built a lightning protection system you're proud of, or survived a nearby strike? Share your experience in the comments or write to us for a future edition.

A ham radio operator stands on a rocky mountain peak, looking out over a vast landscape. The operator is wearing a blue cap, a brown jacket, and blue jeans, with a purple backpack. A long, thin antenna is mounted on their shoulder, extending vertically into the sky. The background features a deep blue sky with scattered white clouds and a distant horizon line. The foreground is a rocky, reddish-brown summit.

ECHOES WITHOUT BORDERS

With the antenna on their shoulder and the horizon as witness, the ham radio operator turns the summit into a bridge of voices crossing mountains, seas, and silence.

RADIO SHACK: ECHOES OF A PAST THAT SHAPED GENERATIONS



FROM A SMALL RADIO BOOTH TO THE HEART OF POPULAR ELECTRONICS



The origins of RadioShack date back to 1921 in Boston, when brothers Theodore and Milton Deutschmann founded a small business selling radios and components for ham radio operators. The name evoked the makeshift booths—radio shacks—where sailors and operators set up their communication equipment. Over time, that small store grew into an international chain, with thousands of outlets that shaped the course of ham radio

and consumer electronics.

The Ham Radio Temple

For multiple generations, stepping into a RadioShack was a unique experience. Its aisles were filled with components, soldering kits, microphones, connectors, antennas, and shortwave receivers. It wasn't just a store—it was a hands-on

school where people learned to experiment and build. RadioShack catalogs were highly coveted. They inspired dreams of setting up stations, creating DIY projects, or finding that hard-to-get part that seemed impossible to find anywhere else.





Democratizing Technology

RadioShack played a key role in democratizing access to electronics. Those who couldn't import expensive equipment found affordable and reliable solutions there. Its accessibility allowed thousands of young people to discover the magic of radio, students to learn through school science projects, and ham radio operators to keep their stations alive.

The Beginning of the Decline

But the story also had a bitter side. The rise of e-commerce, fierce competition, and a lack of digital adaptation hit the chain hard. In 2015, RadioShack filed for bankruptcy, and although there were later attempts at revival, the essence had already been lost.

Today, under new ownership, the brand survives with licensed products and a digital presence, but it is far from what it once was in its golden era.

Quick Timeline

- 1921: Founded in Boston, USA.
- 1950s–60s: Expansion and consolidation as a key electronics components supplier.
- 1970s–80s: Global peak; a reference point for ham radio and consumer electronics.
- 1990s: RadioShack reaches thousands of stores in the US and abroad.
- 2015: First bankruptcy filing.
- 2017: Second bankruptcy and mass store closures.
- 2023: Brand acquired by Grupo Unicomer, focusing on licensed products and online presence.



The Legacy That Endures

Although most of its stores have closed today, RadioShack's legacy lives on in every antenna built with parts from its shelves, in every radio kept with nostalgia, and in every operator who once walked through its doors with eyes full of excitement. RadioShack hasn't completely died. It lives in the collective memory of those of us who saw in it more than a store: a bridge to imagination, innovation, and the brotherhood of ham radio.

3rd in a series

B: Yanira Maldonado WP4YQE

POWERFUL VOICES

WOMEN WHO SHAPED THE HISTORY OF HAM RADIO

An Educator Who Turned the Classroom into a Station and Inspired Thousands of Young People to Discover Ham Radio

Carole Perry is not just an operator with decades of experience: she is a living legend in the field of amateur radio education. With her distinctive callsign WB2MGP, she has introduced ham radio to thousands of children and teenagers across the United States, opening the door for future generations of technicians, engineers, and operators.

A Beginning Driven by Passion

Carole earned her license in the 1970s, but her greatest legacy began in the classroom. As a science teacher in Staten Island, New York, she developed a unique program: "Introduction to Ham Radio," which she taught for more than 30 years to middle school students. Her methodology combined theory, hands-on practice, and active participation in events, contests, and science fairs.

Youth Ambassador in Dayton and Beyond

Since the 1990s, Carole has been a constant presence at the Dayton Hamvention, one of the most important events in the amateur radio world. There, she organizes the annual "Youth Forum," where young ham radio enthusiasts from around the globe present their technical achievements, operational experiences, and innovative projects.



Carole Perry, WB2MGP: Teacher of Generations and Advocate for Youth in Ham Radio

Thanks to her leadership, many young people not only earned their licenses but also developed scientific and technological careers. Her work has been recognized with awards such as the ARRL Instructor of the Year and the Dayton Hamvention Special Achievement Award.

Tireless mentor and advocate for diversity:

Carole has also promoted the inclusion of girls and young women in ham radio, encouraging their participation in clubs, contests, STEM projects, and emergency networks.

She has worked with organizations such as the ARRL, RCA (Radio Club of America), and school programs, bringing ham radio to where it can make the greatest impact: the future.

More than an operator: an educator on the air

Although she is not always heard making DX contacts or participating in contests, Carole's voice has multiplied in every student who has discovered the world through the airwaves. WB2MGP is synonymous with education, passion, and the constant nurturing of the ham radio community.



Highlighted quote:

"The classroom is my station. And my students, my operators. Radio is just the beginning of what they can achieve." – Carole Perry, WB2MGP



JULIA BEATRIZ GARCÍA GIRALT, CM2FG

The First Female Ham Radio Operator in Cuba

A Female Voice That Opened the Dial for Cuban Women in Challenging Times

In the universe of Cuban ham radio, Julia Beatriz García Giralt, with the callsign CM2FG, holds a special place. She was the first woman to obtain a ham radio license in Cuba, breaking ground in a male-dominated community during a period of significant social and technical restrictions.

A Passion Born in Havana

Julia was born in Havana in the 1930s, in an environment where women had few opportunities in technical fields. From a young age, she was fascinated by radio waves and began studying electronics on her own. Through great effort, she obtained her license in the 1950s, becoming the first woman in Cuba with an official ham radio callsign.

Transmitting in Times of Change

During the 1950s and the turbulent 1960s, CM2FG kept her station active amid profound political and social transformations. For her, ham radio was not just a means of communication, but a way to connect with the outside world, exchange technical knowledge, and maintain human bonds across borders.

Her presence on the airwaves became a symbol of perseverance, openness, and resilience. In a society with limited access to technical resources, Julia repaired her own equipment, built antennas, and encouraged other women to try as well.

Mentor to Generations

Over time, she became a reference for new generations of Cuban women interested in ham radio. She participated in founding women's networks within the Cuban Federation of Radio Amateurs (FRC) and promoted meetings, workshops, and activities where women could learn and participate actively.

Many of today's Cuban female operators recognize CM2FG as a mentor and historical figure in the country. Her example helped normalize the presence of women in a field that, for decades, was predominantly male.

A Legacy Beyond the Microphone

Although Julia Beatriz is no longer on the air, her legacy lives on in every Cuban operator who picks up a microphone, installs an antenna, or makes a distant contact. She was a silent pioneer, whose importance grows over time and with the recognition of her courage.

Highlighted Quote:

"There are no barriers on the airwaves. If your signal reaches, your voice is heard. I just wanted to be heard." – Julia Beatriz García Giralt, CM2FG



JOTA is back from October 17 to 19, 2025. Mark your calendars!

JOTA: Jamboree on the Air

JOTA-JOTI is the world's largest digital and ham radio Scout event, promoting friendship and global citizenship.



Photo by: www.jotajoti.info

RF Coils: The Unsung Hero of HF Stations

BY: JULIO MERCADO WP4PUX

When we think about building or upgrading our HF stations, most operators focus on antennas, transceivers, and amplifiers. However, a small yet essential component often goes unnoticed: the RF coil (RF choke). Proper use of these coils can make the difference between a clean, efficient station and one plagued with noise, interference, and unpredictable antenna performance.

WHAT IS AN RF COIL?

In simple terms, an RF coil is a device that blocks or suppresses unwanted radio frequency (RF) currents. It does this by presenting a high impedance to the RF while allowing the desired current (such as DC or the RF flow within the coax) to pass normally. In the world of ham radio, this is commonly used to stop common-mode currents: unwanted RF currents that travel on the coax shield instead of staying within the antenna system.



Why RF Chokes Are Important in HF

At HF frequencies, long coaxial cables can unintentionally act as part of the antenna. When common-mode currents flow back on the coax shield, the results can be frustrating:

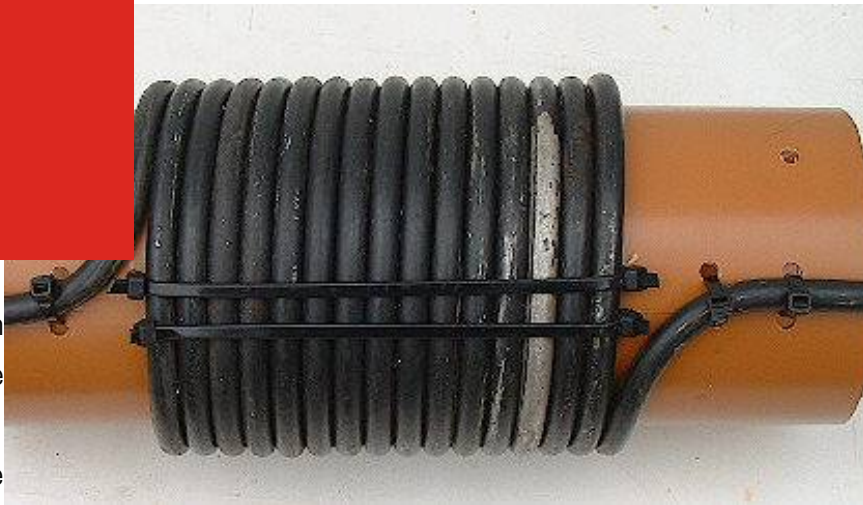
- RFI (Radio Frequency Interference): Your signal may couple into nearby electronic devices, such as TVs, speakers, or even your neighbor's equipment.
- Distorted radiation pattern: The antenna's expected pattern can be altered, changing the takeoff angle and gain.
- Increased noise pickup: The coax acting as an antenna can introduce unwanted local noise into your receiver.

RF CHOKE

- Station instability: SWR readings can fluctuate, and equipment may behave unpredictably.
- A well-designed RF choke, placed at the antenna feed point (and sometimes near the shack entry), helps keep the RF where it belongs: in the antenna.

Types of RF Chokes

- Ferrite bead chokes: Ferrite beads or cores are placed on the coax to create impedance over certain frequency ranges. They are compact and easy to install, but their effectiveness depends on the type of ferrite material.
- Air-wound coaxial chokes: A section of coax is wound into a loop or around a non-conductive form, such as a PVC pipe. This creates inductance that blocks common-mode currents. They are popular among HF operators because they can be built economically and tuned for specific bands.
- Commercial line isolators: Professionally manufactured devices, often using ferrite cores, that cover wide frequency ranges. Convenient, but more expensive.



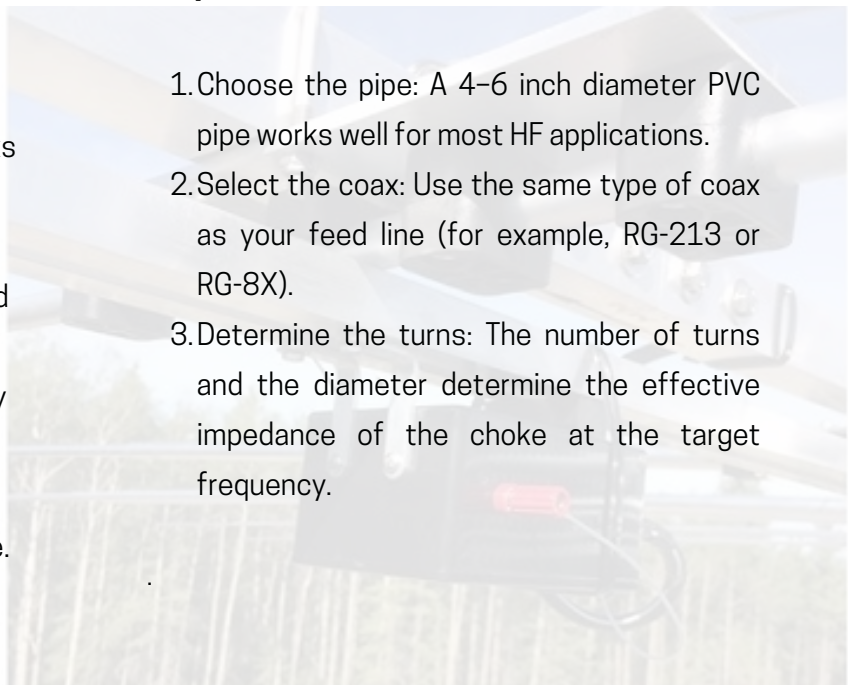
- Commercial line isolators: Professionally manufactured devices, often using ferrite cores, that cover wide frequency ranges. Convenient, but more expensive.

How to Build a Simple Coaxial RF Choke

One of the most effective DIY solutions is a coaxial choke made by winding coax around a PVC pipe. It works by creating an inductive reactance that opposes unwanted RF.

Steps to build it:

1. Choose the pipe: A 4–6 inch diameter PVC pipe works well for most HF applications.
2. Select the coax: Use the same type of coax as your feed line (for example, RG-213 or RG-8X).
3. Determine the turns: The number of turns and the diameter determine the effective impedance of the choke at the target frequency.



STEPS...

- Determine the number of turns:
- For 20 meters (14MHz): 8–10 turns on a 6-inch PVC pipe works well.
- For 40 meters (7MHz): 12–14 turns may be needed.
- For multiband use: 8–10 turns on a 4–6 inch pipe usually provides broad HF coverage.
- Wind the coaxial: Coil the cable evenly and tightly around the pipe. Keep turns side by side without overlapping to ensure consistent performance.
- Secure the choke: Use cable ties or tape to hold the coaxial in place.

Frequency Calculation

The general guideline is to provide at least 500–1000ohms of impedance at the target frequency. While precise calculations involve the coil inductance formula, many hams rely on published tables and practical testing. A rough rule: $X_L = 2 \pi \times f \times L$

Where:

- (X_L) = inductive reactance (ohms)
- (f) = frequency in Hz
- (L) = inductance in henries

Since inductance depends on the number of turns, coil diameter, and spacing, adjustments are often made empirically to achieve the desired RF choking effect,



and the coil diameter, tools like online calculators or reference tables simplify the process. Many hams aim to make the coil effective at their lowest operating band, as higher frequencies are usually covered automatically.

Conclusion

The RF choke may not be the flashiest component of your HF station, but it is one of the most important. By controlling unwanted common-mode currents, you'll enjoy cleaner signals, fewer RFI complaints, and more predictable antenna performance. Whether you build your own coaxial choke or invest in ferrite-based solutions, every HF station benefits from having one—or several—RF chokes strategically placed.

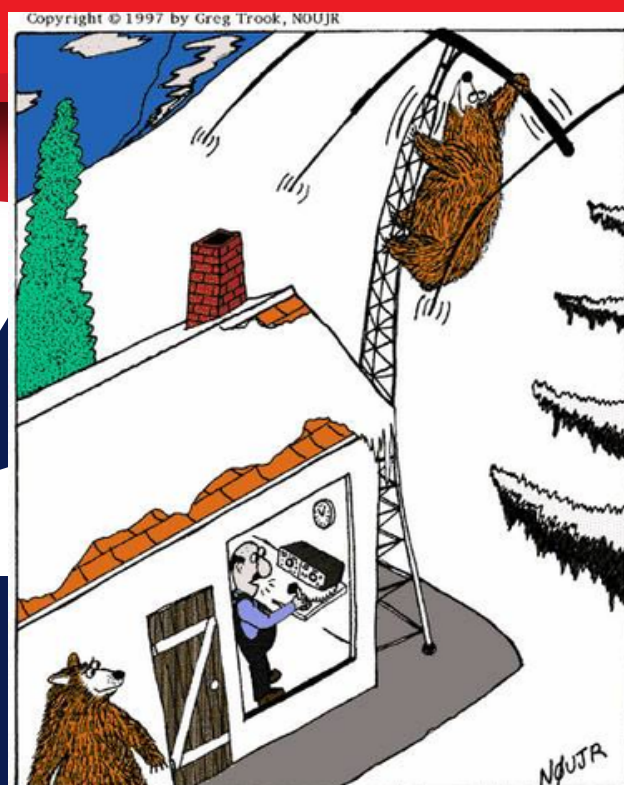
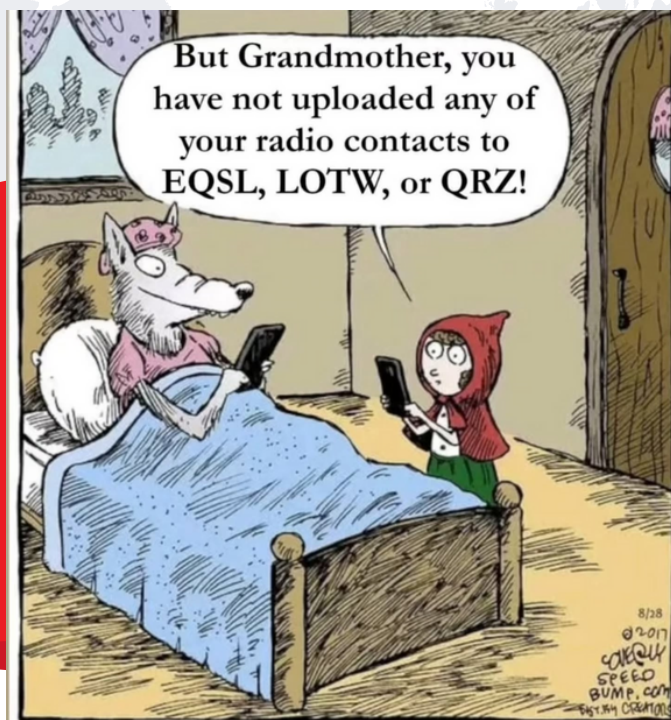


FUN WAVE



Funny QSL

- FT8 is awesome...
- Until you earn your DXCC in just one hour.
- My Baofeng and I have something in common:
- Neither of us works well when there's nearby interference.
- Propagation: that magical moment when your signal travels 10,000 km... and nobody answers.



My SWR won't go down,
I'll have to go out and see what the problem



"In ham radio, you can never have too good
a signal or too much laughter."

IS THE YAESU FT-2000 STILL RELEVANT?

A Classic
That Still
Holds Its
Own.

**POWERFUL, CLASSIC,
RELIABLE.**

The Bridge
Between
Analog and
Digital

By: SWR Editorial Team



In its time, the FT-2000 was seen as a modern and competitive transceiver, offering radio amateurs access to high-level features at a more affordable cost than the FT-DX9000.



When Yaesu introduced the FT-2000 in 2006, ham radio was in the midst of transitioning from traditional analog to the early steps of SDR. The model filled the gap between the legendary FT-1000MP and what would become the next evolution in Yaesu's high-performance series. For several years, it was a coveted rig in contest and DX stations, thanks to its power, flexibility, and robust design.

MAIN FEATURES

Main Features

- HF + 6-meter coverage (50 MHz)
- 100 W output on HF/50 MHz
- Dual receiver (main RX and sub RX)
- Real-time spectrum display (basic panadapter for its time)
- Roofing filters and IF adjustments for improved selectivity
- Excellent transmit audio, characteristic of Yaesu

ADVANTAGES STILL RELEVANT

- Robust construction: Sturdy chassis, large knobs, and "old school" ergonomics that many still prefer over modern touchscreens.
- Audio quality: Both in reception and transmission, the FT-2000 delivers a warm, natural sound.
- Second-hand market value: Available at much lower prices than new FTdx10 or FTdx101 models, making it an option for those seeking high-performance radios without spending thousands.
- Basic contest capability: With proper tuning and filters, it can still perform well in high-signal-density environments.
-



The Hidden Heart: Behind
the Scenes of What Makes
Every Transmission
Possible

ITS LIMITATIONS TODAY

- Receiver: Although decent, it no longer competes with the dynamic ranges of modern SDRs (FTdx101, IC-7610, TS-890S).
- Primitive panadapter: Compared to the fluid displays of current radios, its spectrum display feels slow and limited.
- Weight and size: Large and heavy compared to today's compact options.
- Updates: Yaesu officially discontinued support long ago, limiting the availability of spare parts.

So, is it still relevant?

The answer is yes... depending on who uses it.

For the ham who wants a solid, reliable radio with excellent audio for home operation, the FT-2000 remains a gem.

For the high-level competitor seeking every dB advantage in pile-up conditions, it may no longer meet modern standards.

As an "entry to high-end" option on the used market, it still holds appeal. In short, the FT-2000 may not match the latest SDR transceivers, but it still has a respectable place in many stations, proving that a well-designed radio doesn't lose its relevance over time.



EL AUDIO BIEN AJUSTADO
ABRE PUERTAS EN EL ÉTER;
LA DISTORSIÓN LAS CIERRA

Photo by: kv5r

Audio Settings and Equalizers

By: Abimael Padro KP4RY

HOW TO ACHIEVE A CLEAR AND EFFICIENT TRANSMISSION

In amateur radio, transmitted audio is each operator's calling card. It doesn't matter how good the antenna is or how much power the transmitter has—if the voice comes through distorted, weak, or with excessive bass and treble, communication loses effectiveness. That's why manufacturers have been incorporating modern equalization and processing options into their equipment, allowing each amateur radio operator to shape their audio according to their operational needs.

Parametric Equalizers: Precision in Detail

Yaesu equipment, such as the FTdx series and the FT-991A, incorporates parametric equalizers that allow fine-tuning in three parameters:

- **Center Frequency:** sets the exact point where adjustment is applied (e.g., 400 Hz, 1.5 kHz, or 2.5 kHz).
- **Gain:** controls how much the signal is boosted or reduced at that frequency.
- **Bandwidth (Q):** defines whether the correction is very narrow and precise or affects a broader range.

With this tool, an operator can add more clarity to their voice by boosting the midrange (around 1.5 kHz), reduce excessive bass that muddies the audio, or highlight treble frequencies to enhance presence. This is ideal for those seeking a "tailored" sound that adapts to different propagation conditions.

**GOOD AUDIO DOESN'T
NEED TO BE LOUD, IT NEEDS
TO BE CLEAR.**

Other Equalization Styles: ICOM, Kenwood, and Flex

ICOM equipment focuses on simpler yet effective equalizers, usually with bass, mid, and treble controls. Although less detailed than parametric equalizers, they allow quick adjustments to achieve a proper balance.

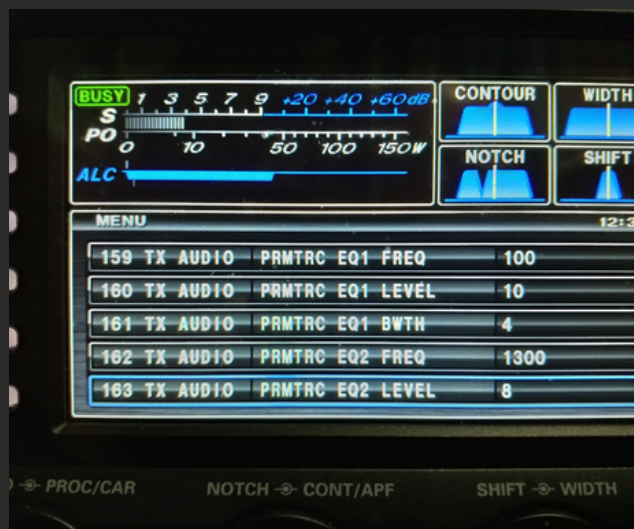
Kenwood, with models such as the TS-590SG and TS-890, offers 9-band equalizers with configurable memories, along with optimized profiles for voice, DX, or local communications. Their philosophy is to help the operator achieve maximum intelligibility without sacrificing naturalness.

On the other hand, FlexRadio and other SDRs (Software Defined Radios) take equalization to a higher level. From the computer, the operator has access to multi-band graphic equalizers, transmission bandwidth settings, and highly detailed audio profiles. This makes it possible to achieve anything from a very narrow and punchy sound for competitive DX to a wide and warm audio for relaxed QSOs.

Gain Settings and Voice Processor

A fundamental aspect, sometimes overlooked, is microphone gain. Setting it too high can overload the ALC, causing distortion, while setting it too low will result in weak, thin audio. The basic rule is to keep the ALC indication within the levels suggested by the manufacturer, avoiding excessive peaks.

The voice processor is another indispensable tool. Its role is to compress the audio's dynamic range, increasing the average voice level and improving punch under difficult conditions. However, it must be used with moderation: too much processing can sound metallic, artificial, or unpleasant to the listener. The key is finding a middle ground that adds "punch" without losing naturalness.



The Ideal Audio: Naturalness and Clarity

The goal of every audio adjustment is to achieve an intelligible, clear, and pleasant transmission. For SSB voice, the ideal range is between 300 Hz and 2.7 kHz, where the intelligibility of human speech is concentrated. In AM or FM, that range can be extended to achieve a fuller and more enjoyable sound.

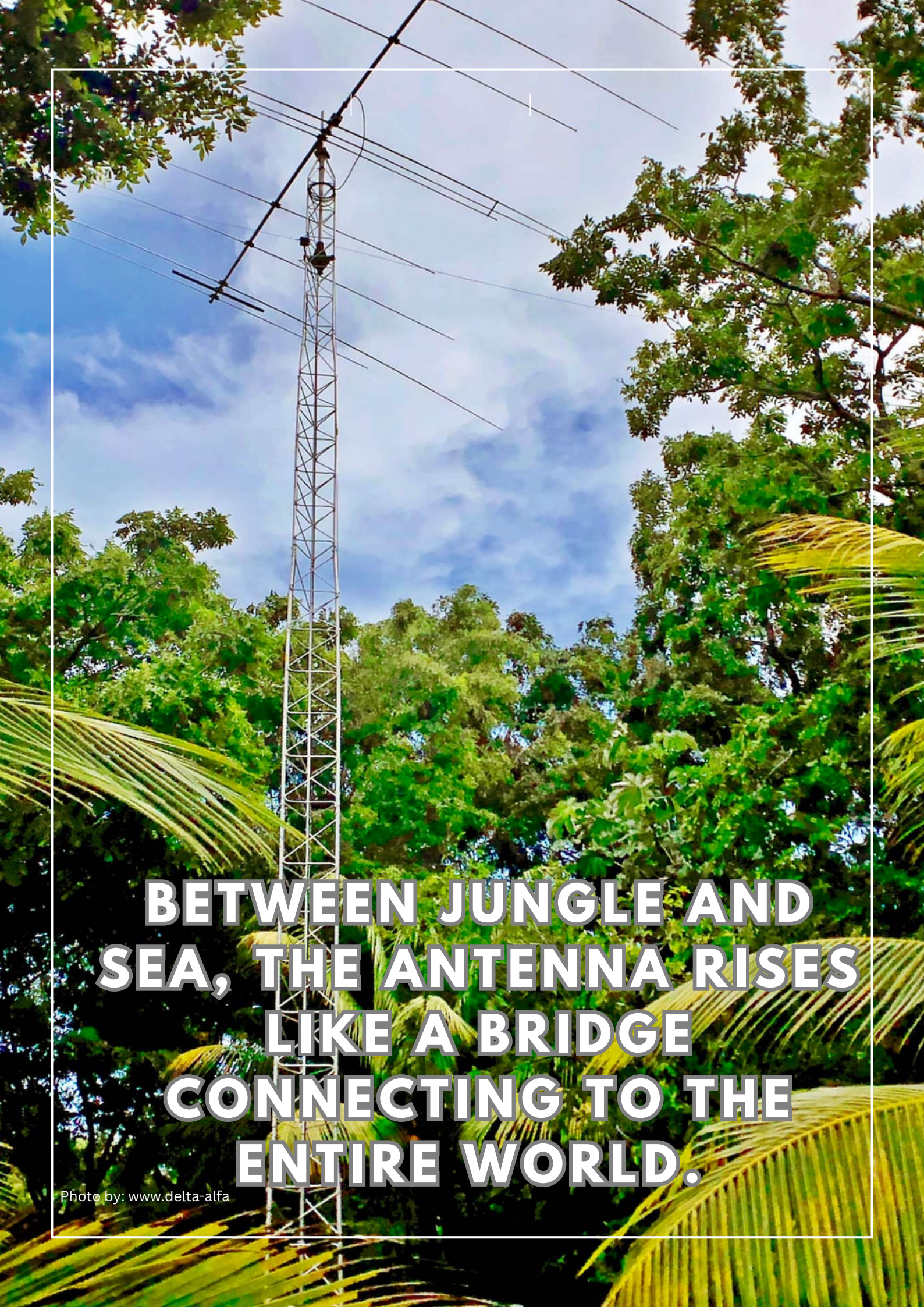
However, there is no universal setting. Every voice is different, and each operating environment requires specific adjustments. That's why it is most advisable to conduct transmission tests, record yourself with a second receiver, or request signal reports from fellow operators. Real on-air feedback is irreplaceable.

Conclusion

Properly adjusting transmit audio is an art that combines technical knowledge with listening sensitivity. Yaesu's parametric equalizers offer surgical precision, ICOM and Kenwood's intuitive controls enable quick adjustments, and SDR systems like FlexRadio allow extreme customization.

In all cases, understanding the role of gain, the processor, and the equalizer allows the operator to project their voice clearly and effectively. Good audio not only stands out on the air but also improves communication quality, reduces listener fatigue, and reflects the professionalism of every amateur radio operator.

Because in the end, beyond the antenna and the power, the voice is the true protagonist of radio.

A tall, slender metal lattice tower stands vertically, rising from a dense, lush tropical jungle. The tower is composed of a series of interconnected metal beams, forming a stable structure. At the top of the tower, there are several horizontal cross-arms, each supporting multiple thin, parallel wires or cables that extend outwards. The background is a vibrant blue sky with scattered white clouds. The foreground and sides of the tower are framed by the dense foliage of the jungle, including large green leaves and palm fronds, some of which are in sharp focus in the foreground. The overall scene conveys a sense of isolation and connectivity in a remote, natural setting.

**BETWEEN JUNGLE AND
SEA, THE ANTENNA RISES
LIKE A BRIDGE
CONNECTING TO THE
ENTIRE WORLD.**

Photo by: www.delta-alfa

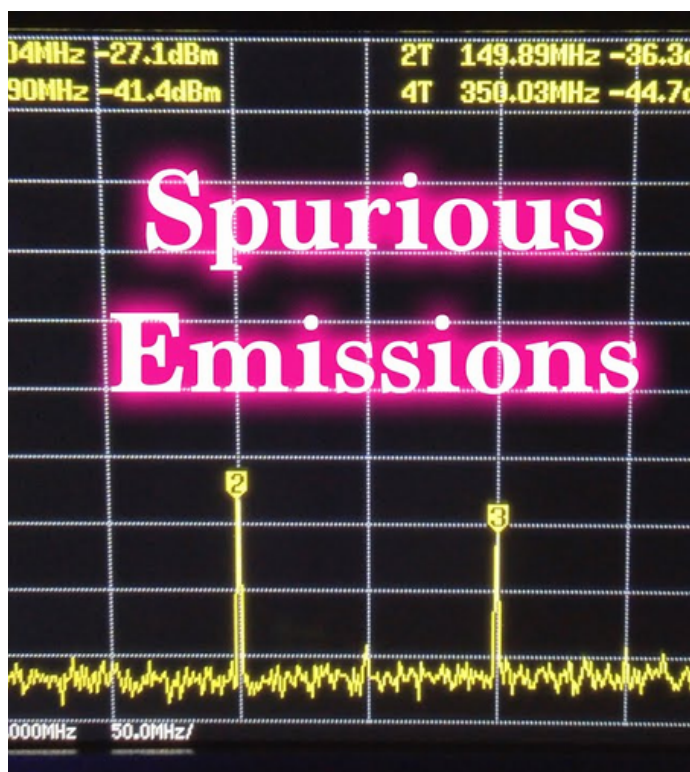
EVALUATION OF SPURIOUS EMISSIONS IN RADIOCOMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT:

Practical Methodology Using a Power Meter and Spectrum Analyzer

Spurious emissions pose a risk to the integrity of the radio spectrum by generating unwanted signals that can interfere with other communication services. Controlling spurious emissions is a regulatory requirement that ensures the safe and efficient operation of radiocommunication systems. According to the ITU-R, spurious emissions must be kept below a level calculated based on the transmission power of the fundamental carrier.



Photo by: VA7ISI



For amateur radio operators and telecommunications technicians, having practical and accessible methodologies is essential to evaluate equipment compliance. This article describes a practical method for amateur radio operators to verify that their equipment meets the required standards.

A power meter, a portable spectrum analyzer (such as the TinySA), and an attenuator to protect the instrument are required. First, the fundamental power is measured at high output, and the maximum allowed spurious level is calculated using the ITU formula. Then, the transmitter is connected to the spectrum analyzer, transmitted for 30 seconds, and the spectrum is recorded, applying the attenuation correction. Finally, the detected spurious signals are compared with the reference level. Certified equipment is expected to comply with ITU limits; otherwise, the transmitter would not meet international standards, posing a risk of interference and regulatory penalties.

The general formula proposed by the ITU to establish the spurious emissions limit is:

Where P is the transmission power in watts and L is the minimum required attenuation in decibels relative to the fundamental carrier, certified equipment exhibits spurious emission levels below the total value given by the formula. This procedure provides a practical and low-cost alternative for verifying amateur radio equipment. Although the TinySA does not replace professional laboratory spectrum analyzers, it is useful for field tests and preliminary evaluations. The key is proper system calibration and the use of attenuators to protect the analyzer from overloads.

It is essential to remember that tests should only be conducted on bands for which the equipment is authorized, in full compliance with licenses and applicable regulations.

Finally, Kenwood maintains its reputation for excellence: the TH-D74 model easily passed the tests, confirming its reliability and high-quality construction.

In conclusion, while well-known brands like Icom and Kenwood offer safety and regulatory compliance, more affordable options such as Jianpai may cause interference issues, and Baofeng, although inexpensive, showed unexpected improvements in its spurious emissions. Regularly verifying equipment performance ensures responsible operation, prevents interference, and allows amateur radio operators to actively contribute to protecting the radio spectrum.

Independent tests (AdvancedAmateur.ca, 2025) through a comparative analysis of radios showed significant differences among popular brands.

Baofeng, although historically criticized for exceeding spurious emission limits (e.g., UV-5R), delivered surprisingly clean results in the tests. Icom stands out for its high quality and strict compliance with international standards; the V-86 model, for example, showed no spurious emissions, confirming its reliability despite its higher cost. In contrast, Jianpai revealed serious problems: the 8800 model emitted signals outside authorized bands, posing interference risks to critical services such as aviation, making it unsuitable for responsible operators. ✓



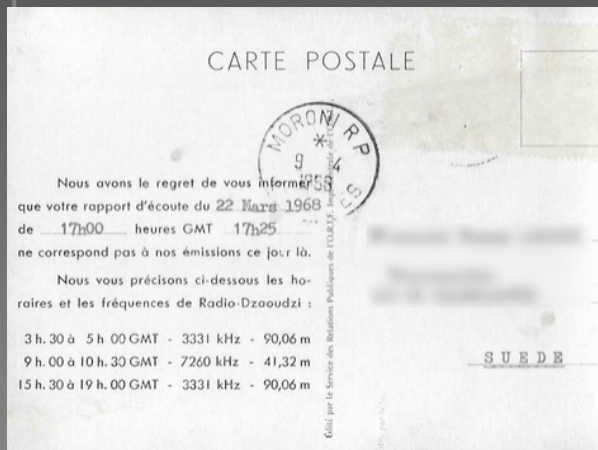
Photo by: www.reddit.com

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- ITU-R. (2012). Recommendation ITU-R SM.329-12: Unwanted emissions in the spurious domain. International Telecommunication Union.
- AdvancedAmateur.ca. (2025). Radio Compliance Tests.<https://www.advancedamateur.ca/radio-compliance-tests>

AMATEUR RADIO ZONE

Historic Radio Dzaoudzi QSL Fetches \$158 at Auction



The 1968 QSL card from Radio Dzaoudzi, offered in an eBay auction, fetched USD 158, showing how highly prized verification cards from rare or historic stations can be. The card is particularly notable because it comes from an African station in the Comoros Islands, indicating a frequency of 3,331 kHz (90-meter band)—a channel that veteran DXers remember hearing only at dawn worldwide—adding both historical and collectible appeal.

Lab559 TX-500MP

The Lab559 TX-500MP is a portable HF transceiver made in Russia, designed for amateur radio operators and professionals who require compact and rugged equipment. Its "manpack" format allows operation under extreme conditions, with a D16T aluminum alloy casing that protects against dust and moisture. It offers a frequency range of 0.5 to 56 MHz and supports multiple transmission modes such as SSB, CW, AM, FM, and DIG. Its low power consumption (up to 100 mA in receive mode) and the BP-550 battery ensure long operating time. It includes an automatic antenna tuner (ATU) and 100 programmable channels, making it easy to use in emergency situations and expeditions in remote areas. This equipment is ideal for tactical applications, rescue operations, and activities in hard-to-reach locations.



Special Weekend at the RSGB National Radio Centre

On September 27 and 28, the RSGB National Radio Centre at Bletchley Park held a historic weekend. The GB1SOE station was set up in honor of the SOE, and three special broadcasts were made to mark the 70th anniversary of GB2RS, all as part of the 1940s-themed event at the park.

Photo by: Radio Society of Great Britain

SWR

